an above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should *be* clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(iii) *Anticipated Income-,*

(a) In normal areas: The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3 per cent of cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas: The minimum anticipated income will be 15 per cent of the cost.

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening new Post offices in Urban Areas

(i) Initially the post office would be Self supporting but at the time of the first annual review it should show 5 per cent profit to be eligible for further retention...

(ii) The Minimum distance between two post offices is now raised to 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakh and above and 2Kms. in other urban. No. two delivery offices however should be closer than 5 Kms. 'from each other. Further. a delivery post office should have a minimum of 7 post men's beats.

(iii) No extra departmental post offices will be opened in urban areas.

(iv) Heads of Circles will have powers to relax the distance condition in 10 per cent of the cases.

(v) In all the cases, approval of Ministry of Finance is obtained.

II *Project Areas /Industrial Estates and Townships/Satellite Townships/ other areas* of *Development Activity Plan*

(i) The scheme will cover departmental sib offices set up in project areas, new industrial estates townships statellite colonies developed in periphery of cities/urban agglomerations and other similar developments which have come up in new areas in pursuance of the plan activities of state and Central Government Deprtments and agencies.

(ii) The posts required for the opening of departmental sub offices under this scheme will be created at the approval of Secretary in the Ministry of finance (Department of Expenditure).

(iii) Only proposals in which the minimum anticipated work is 6 hooins can be considered.

(iv) The permissible limits of loss will be Rs. 2400 (in normal rural areas) and Rs. 4800 (in hilly, back--,va~d and tribal areas per sub office per annum.

Theft of Telephone cable in Metro Cities of the country

2535. SHRI ANANT RAM JAIS-WAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Telephone cable theft gangsters are very active these days in metro-cities of the country, particularly in Delhi as a result of which the tele-phone cables are being stolen on • large scale;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the stolen cables and its effect on telephone development work; and

(c) what immediate measures are contemplated by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OP THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As given in the Statement. *(See* below)

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(c) The following measures have been taken to redu-e incidence of thefts of cable PCM equipment:

(i) Intensive patrolling of imp • or'cant cable routes.

(ii) Close co-ordination with the Police Authorities.

(iii) Double locking of manhole covers of external chiain and lock arrangement for PCM cabinets.

(iv) Burying of cables in concrete in open culverts.

(v) Installation of Alarm Circuits for cables on vulnerable routes.

Statement

S. No.	Name of City			Cost (Rs.)
1.	Delhi	1990-91	Cable	15,21,304
		1991-92	Cable	13,40,722
		1992-93	Cable	13,18,427
2.	Bombay	1990-91	Cable	97,807
		1991-92	Cable	5,92,170
		1992-93	Cable	4,16,152
3.	Calcutta	1990-91	U/G Cable SW Bd Cables	4,12,725
		1991-92	Do.	4,16,923
		1992-93	Do.	92,402
4.	Madras	1990-91	U/G Cable.	29,000
		1991-92	Do.	1,84,000
		1992-93	Do.	39,000

Family Pension cases under the risdiction of Post Blaster General West Bengal

2536. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of family pension of the erstwhile employees of postal department within the jurisdiction of PMG, West Bengal have been awaiting sanction and settlement for a long time;

(b) whether Government would direct the department now to expedite the cases of family pension/ widow pension;

(c) whether any separate department has been created to look after the settlement of such cases in the PMG's office;

(d) if so, the facts and details •hereof; and

(e) the details of cases settled dur-ritr the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. By and large this is not